IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-25 (cancelled)

Claim 26 (currently amended)   A computer implemented method for servicing patrons, wherein a queue is managed by a queue manager of a computer system, wherein said queue manager comprises software running on said computer system configured to perform the following:

receiving a queue entry request, wherein said queue entry request comprises patron-supplied personal contact information, wherein said queue entry request further comprises a position in said queue at which point a patron is to be notified and a number of patrons in a party;

placing said patron at a next available position in said queue;

selecting another patron to be served from said queue, wherein the another patron is selected based on position of the another patron in said queue and data provided in said queue entry request of the another patron;

updating a position of said patron in said queue ~~if another patron associated with a top position~~ when the another patron in said queue has been served; and

notifying said patron, using said patron-supplied contact information, upon said patron reaching said position in said queue at which said patron is to be notified, of a current position of said patron in said queue and an estimate time at which said patron will be served.

Claim 27 (previously presented)   The computer implemented method as recited in claim 26, wherein said queue manager further performs the following:

notifying said patron, using said patron-supplied contact information, upon said patron reaching said top position in said queue, that said patron is ready to be served; and

starting a timer to count a first duration of time after said patron is notified that said patron is ready to be served.

Claim 28 (previously presented) The computer implemented method as recited in claim 27, wherein said queue manager further performs the following:

dequeuing said patron from said queue if said patron responds to said notification that said patron is ready to be served prior to an expiration of said first duration of time.

Claim 29 (previously presented) The computer implemented method as recited in claim 27, wherein said queue manager further performs the following:

placing said patron at an end of said queue if said patron does not respond to said notification that said patron is ready to be served prior to an expiration of said first duration of time.

Claim 30 (previously presented) The computer implemented method as recited in claim 26, wherein said queue entry request is received via electronic mail.

Claim 31 (previously presented) The computer implemented method as recited in claim 26, wherein said queue entry request is received via a web page.

Claim 32 (previously presented) The computer implemented method as recited in claim 26, wherein said patron represents a party of more than one person, wherein a position of said patron is swapped with a position of another patron if said patron's party cannot be accommodated.

Claim 33 (previously presented) The computer implemented method as recited in claim 26, wherein said estimate time at which said patron will be served is determined based on a rate at which patrons have been served between a current time and a time of a last notification to said patron.